

Exhibition Report

Samina Zaheer's Current Exhibition of Painting



Mohammad Ashraf ¹

The Society of Pakistan comprises diverse cultures which evolve through history of Indus Valley Civilisation. This civilisation has been remarkable and distinct for its planned urban cities like Mehrgarh, Mohnjo daro, Harapa and Texilla. This region has been invaded in the past, occupied and settled by many different people of different origin. Each of whom has left his imprints greatly on the mosaic of Indus Civilisation. Pakistan is the proud successor and inheritor of this civilisation.

The society of Pakistan is largely multilingual, multi-ethnic and multicultural. Pakistan is among the oldest settlement some dating back to 5000 to 7000 B.C. Indus valley civilisation has now been catapulted into prominence with the world being reduced into a global village. The famous quote that “East is East and West is West and twain shall not meet” has become irrelevant. We are now at the cross-roads. We know that many civilisations had thrived and demised but Indus civilisation has survived and continues to evolve and progress the fusion of different national, regional and international elements have given birth to a new set of aesthetics. In this environs, the contemporary fine art practices are no exception.

It appears that these cultural impacts have been a motivating factor for samina zaheer to opt a subject for her Doctorates degree “Impact of Indigenous and Trans-cultural influences on contemporary Fine Art Practices of Pakistan”. The Professional Doctorate in Fine Art is one of the very few programmes in the world which offers, a higher degree in Fine Art research with the emphasis on studio practice with professional outcomes. Samina in pursuit of her Professional Doctorate in Fine Art at University of Punjab has decided to put her paintings on

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display. The show will be held at 39K Gallery a newly establish art gallery at Model Town Lahore. The display will be opened to public on 16 December, 2008 for viewing, appreciation and criticism. She did her MA fine arts from Punjab University in 1990 and has participated in numerous group shows at national level. She was also engaged in learning Textile and Fashion Designing some. At Present she is lecturer in Fine Art at G.P.I.W Lahore. The present solo exhibition is part of her professional pursuits to strengthen her portfolio for her ongoing practice based doctorate program.





The Pakistan's contemporary fine art practices are the direct outcome of interactions of the western and eastern aesthetics. All these cultural influences have been a source of inspiration for Samina Zaheer. Her recent exhibition is an amalgamation of architectural structure, calligraphic patterns, textile motifs and geometric forms. She has spontaneously transformed these entire elements with bold colours into abstract surfaces. Her paintings unfold the conscious and unconscious reality of everyday life. Her ideas are constructed through flow of colours and forms, thereby, creating a piece of art which invites the viewers to establish an understanding relationship. Her paintings are bold exponent of abstractionism and not symbolism. Her success in this aspect would depend on the depth of relationship with the viewers. She is an abstractionist. She invites viewers to make serious attempt to decipher her expressions in art practices. Her employment of bold colours and forms would certainly help to earn a niche for her identity in the domain of fine art. Her work is an unusual application of structures and geometric forms. Her strokes are manifestations of successful exponent of reality. Her "Shanakht" is a vital rendering of the western and eastern aesthetics. Her imaginations are intriguing and integrating of cultures.

Her research carries logical descriptions, subsequently influenced by her imagination. She has been successful in transforming from concept to reality and transformation to fantasy, thereby, predicting future trends and an endeavour for an identity. I can safely predict that her future work will be more intriguing exciting, and shall produce intelligent impacts, however needs critical appreciations as inputs to further fuse the intrinsic and extrinsic influences into her experimentations. This innovative creative activity like that of samina's endeavour, would continue to evolve with the passage of time.